

Applicant: Anand Rangarajan et al. Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-229001/P8794  
Serial No.: 09/608,997 Intel Corporation  
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1. (PROPOSED) Apparatus comprising:

a networking router architecture comprising

a first component configured to perform a route look-up to identify a proxy egress port by which a data packet is to leave the first component, to send an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) request for a hardware address of an egress port by which the data packet is to leave [[a]] the networking router architecture to reach [[the]] a receiver, to receive a response to the ARP request that includes the hardware address of the egress port, and to label the data packet with information identifying the hardware address of the egress port;

a second component comprising the egress port and configured to receive the data packet; and

an intermediate component bridging the first component and the second component and acting as a transparent bridge to forward the ARP request and the labeled data packet based on the hardware address of the egress port,

wherein the receiver is outside of the networking router architecture.

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2. (PROPOSED) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the networking router architecture further comprising comprises additional intermediate components bridging the first component and the second component to forward the data.

12. (PROPOSED) A method comprising:

- performing a lookup in a routing table to determine a proxy egress port by which data is to leave a component;
- sending a request for an address of an egress component by which the data is to leave a networking router architecture to reach a receiver, wherein the receiver is outside of the networking router architecture;
- receiving a reply to the request, the reply including the address of the egress component;
- labeling the data with the address to identify the egress component; and
- forwarding the data, based on the address, through an intermediate component acting as a transparent bridge to the egress component,

wherein the networking router architecture comprises the intermediate component and the egress component.

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13. (PROPOSED) The method of claim 12 wherein:  
the data is forwarded through additional intermediate  
components without a routing table look up; and  
the networking router architecture further comprises the  
additional intermediate components.

18. (PROPOSED) An article comprising one or more machine-  
readable media, the one or more machine-readable media encoded  
with machine-executable instructions, the machine-executable  
instructions for causing one or more machines to:

perform a look up in a routing table to determine a proxy  
egress port by which data is to leave the one or more machines;

send a request for a media access control (MAC) address of  
an egress component by which the data is to leave a networking  
router architecture to reach a receiver, wherein the receiver is  
outside of the networking router architecture;

receive a reply to the request, the reply including the MAC  
address of the egress component;

label the data with the MAC address of the egress  
component; and

forward the data, based on the MAC address, through an  
intermediate component acting as a transparent bridge to the  
egress component,

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wherein the networking router architecture comprises the intermediate component and the egress component.

22. (PROPOSED) The article of claim 13, wherein the machine-executable instructions are further for causing the one or more machines to:

encapsulate a packet comprising the data with the MAC address of the ~~second~~ egress component; and

forward the encapsulated packet to the egress component through the intermediate component without a routing table look-up.

24. (PROPOSED) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~apparatus~~ networking router architecture comprises a modularized network element that includes the first component, the second component, and the intermediate component, the position of the components in the network element changing based on a path of the data.

26. (PROPOSED) The method of claim 12 wherein:  
~~performing the lookup to determine the path comprises~~  
~~performing the lookup to determine the path in the networking~~  
router architecture comprises a modularized network element that includes the egress component and the intermediate component[[,]] ; and

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wherein the position of the components in the network  
element changes based on the path.

28. (PROPOSED) The article of claim, wherein:

~~the machine-executable instructions are further for causing  
the one or more machines to:~~

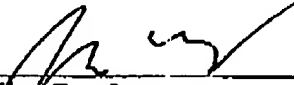
~~perform the look up to determine the path in~~ networking  
router architecture comprises a modularized network element that  
includes the egress component and the intermediate  
component[[,]] ; and

wherein the position of the components in the network  
element changes based on the path.

Should any questions or concerns arise, Applicant  
respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone applicant's  
representative at (858) 678-4346.

Respectfully submitted,

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